



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HADDONFIELD

Volume 7, No. 1

343 King's Highway East

February, 1964

WHITFIELD J. BELL, JR. TO SPEAK ON EARLY JERSEY SCIENTISTS AND PATRIOTS AT CANDLELIGHT DINNER

A distinguished speaker, an excellent menu and an attractive atmosphere combine to make the Society's February meeting a "sell out." Members are therefore urged to mail their reservations early for the Candlelight Dinner on Tuesday, February 25, which will be held this year at Tavistock Country Club.

Our speaker, Whitfield J. Bell, Jr., is no stranger to Society members. In July, 1959, as associate editor of "The Papers of Benjamin Franklin," Dr. Bell gave a charming talk on "Adventures with Franklin's Letters."

For our February meeting, Dr. Bell has chosen a subject most appropriate to the opening of events for the celebration of New Jersey's Tercentenary year—"Scientists and Patriots: Early Jersey Members of the American Philosophical Society."

An authority on the history of American science, particularly in the field of Medicine, Dr. Bell has written many articles on the subject. In 1955, he compiled *Early American Science, Needs and Opportunities for Study* for the Institute of Early American History and Culture, Williamsburg, Va., and in 1956 collaborated with Leonard W. Labaree in

NEXT MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, February 25

TIME: 6:15 P. M.—

CANDLELIGHT DINNER

PLACE: Tavistock Country Club

editing "Mr. Franklin, a Selection from his Personal Letters."

Presently, Dr. Bell is Associate Librarian of the American Philosophical Society. He is a member of the Study Section on the History of the Life Sciences, National Institutes of Health, the Council of the Institute of Early American History and Culture, Williamsburg, Va., and Research Associate Professor of History, University of Penna.

A gifted and much-in-demand lecturer, Dr. Bell is noted for "humanizing" our early historical figures with rare insight into their character and personality.

Tickets for the Candlelight Dinner are \$3.50 each, including gratuity. All reservations must be received by February 21. Please send your reservations with check payable to Haddonfield Historical Society to Mrs. A. E. Prowattain, 407 4th Ave., Haddon Heights, N. J.

OPEN HOUSE IN HISTORIC GREENWICH PLANNED FOR MAY; COLONIAL TOWN LINKED TO HADDONFIELD HISTORY

This May several of the oldest and most historically celebrated homes in nearby Greenwich, N. J. will be open to the public. For those antiquarians who have not visited this ancient town, the event should be of paramount interest.

Greenwich is distinguished for the patriotic part it played in the Revolutionary War and for the preservation of its colonial appearance and charm, the most unspoiled colonial town in all of New Jersey.

Greenwich is about forty miles south of Haddonfield. An antiquarian-traveler who desires historic flavor on his trip to Greenwich should take the longer route via Salem and the town of Swedesboro. At Salem on Yorke Street begins another Kings Highway (1707) to Greenwich. The last road is now commonly called the Hancock's Bridge Road. Five miles south of Salem in the hamlet of Hancock's Bridge is the Hancock House, a state museum, in which house an American militia garrison was massacred by the British in 1778. Along this route lies a vast amount of history.

The more direct but much less historic route is via Bridgeton. From this place it is seven miles to Greenwich.

The one great event which brought the name of Greenwich into national prominence and linked it forever in the pages of American history with Boston and Annapolis is the patriotic role of the towns that destroyed the English tea cargo in rebellion against "taxation without representation."

The Greenwich "Tea Party" is commemorated in Market Square in the center of the town by a handsome marble monument erected in 1908. On the sides of the monument are carved the names of the tea burners.

It is two miles from the Head of Greenwich to the tiny hamlet of Roadstown from which area came a long and

pathetic appeal on March 28, 1778, to General Washington at Valley Forge, through channels via Colonel Israel Shreve at Haddonfield, asking for immediate reinforcements and pointing out the salient and pertinent fact that if the enemy should penetrate to that area the "bread basket" of the American army would be lost.

This poignant, truthful appeal calls attention to a long forgotten fact in American history: in February of 1778, Mad Anthony Wayne had secured enough cattle, food and forage in the two counties of Salem and Cumberland alone to keep alive the tatterdemalion army which had been slowly starving to death on the bleak hillsides near Norristown.

Colonel Shreve forwarded the appeal to General Washington, adding his own urgent appeal for more troops stating a true but deplorable fact: that the line of the Cohansey which stretched from Dennis house near Bayside, through Greenwich, to Roadstown was manned by only three hundred men armed only with fowling pieces and certainly too weak to withstand the two regular British regiments at Salem and on the line of the Alloways, scarcely ten miles distant.

Fortunately by April the question of more troops for the colonists was answered by the British withdrawal from Salem and in two months from Philadelphia to New York. Had they elected to attack the American militia on the line of the Cohansey, there would have been no reinforcements for the militia simply because Washington had no manpower available to send them.

The colonial charm and architectural purity of Greenwich was spared by the removal of the county seat from that town to Bridgeton by an election in 1748 which caught the Greenwichites napping but which proved to be a for-

fortunate event for posterity. A county seat cannot resist "progress." Save for a few old houses, Bridgeton has entirely lost any resemblance to a colonial town. It is the same with most county seats in the state.

Greenwich was founded with its twin town of Salem by John Fenwick in 1675, seven years older than the city of Philadelphia. As the colonists prospered, they built the best houses they could afford.

A distinguishing feature of Greenwich architecture is the red and blue bricks from which many fine Greenwich and Salem houses were made. Historians claim the bricks were made right on the scene, sand and clay being plentiful. Proof of the large colonial trade in brick-making is the West Jersey provincial legislative act passed in 1683 stipulating that all bricks used for construction purposes must be "well burnt, of a uniform size and two-and-three quarters inches thick, four-and-one-half inches broad, and nine-and-one half inches long."

Greenwich does not have as many examples of either diaper or zigzag brick designs on the walls of its houses as does Salem County where this long forgotten art flourished to such proportions as to make the parent shire the leading example of such artistry in this nation. Yet there are enough originals in Greenwich to warrant this description of the ancient English mode of brickmaking and brick-laying.

As pointed out by historian Joseph S. Sickler, authority on Greenwich, descendant of a long line of ancestors who were born on "Ye Greate Streete" of Greenwich, "while colonial America may be seen, restored, at Williamsburg, Virginia, it may be viewed in its original and pristine glory only at Greenwich, New Jersey."

Announcement of Open House Day in May featuring four old homes will appear in local newspapers.

LIBRARY NOW STAFFED TO ASSIST RESEARCHERS

The Library at Greenfield Hall has a new look of top efficiency. Expert recataloguing and a well qualified staff of volunteer librarians facilitate study, research and just browsing.

The capable assistants in charge are Miss L. Rebecca Hutton, Mrs. Donald S. Willis, Mrs. Elnora W. Alff, Mrs. George L. Heck, Mrs. Milton Andrews, Miss Helena V. Stevenson, Mrs. James J. Lennon, Mrs. Mildred E. Hilley-swank, Mrs. Jos. L. Nicholson, Mrs. David S. Lenhart and Mrs. Virgil E. Trouant. The Library is now open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 p. m. to 4:30 p. m.

Anyone interested in joining the Library staff is invited to get in touch with our Librarian Mrs. Gertrude Hess, HA 9-4580.

ROMANTIC VALENTINE EXHIBIT FEATURED DURING FEBRUARY

Artifacts with a romantic history, some associated with Elizabeth Haddon, will be on display during February at Greenfield Hall in a special exhibit to honor Valentine's Day. The Educational Committee of the Society has selected many interesting personal possessions relating to courtship and marriage which reveal the romantic customs of earlier times in New Jersey.

Two committee appointments have been made by Mrs. Martha Goettelmann, president:

Chairman of Property—

Mr. John S. Wood, Jr.

Chairman of House—

Mrs. Merritt W. Pharo

New acquisitions will be announced in the May Bulletin by our Curator, Mrs. R. B. Carl and Assistant Curator, Mrs. T. Paul Sims, Jr.

Historical Society of Haddonfield

Haddonfield, New Jersey

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THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HADDONFIELD

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FAIRMOUNT PARK HISTORIC HOMES TO BE FEATURED AT MAY MEETING

William Barber, noted Curator of Woodford Mansion in Fairmount Park, will be our speaker for the May meeting of the Society. He brings to us the greatest collection of slides extant on the historic mansions in the Park. Many of the pictures were taken before the renaissance of the Park houses. The before-and-after restoration presentation should be one of the most fascinating ever made before the Society.

Mr. Barber is a treasure-house of little known facts about these great residences—facts which cover both their personal and architectural history. Mr. Barber's talk coincides with the opening of the Spring Tours of Fairmount Park houses which have attracted wide interest in this area.

PICTURES OF OLD HADDONFIELD WANTED FOR LIBRARY

If you have any pictures of old houses, stores, streets or places in Haddonfield or vicinity lurking in an attic trunk or forgotten drawer, the Library of the Society would like to have them to build up a picture collection of old Haddonfield.

Such a collection would be of great interest and value to future generations and it is hoped that members of the Society and their friends will have many pictures to contribute. Pictures may be brought to the Library on the days and hours it is open.

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